Dhaka's \$1m grant wins a little heart

Bss, Dhaka

"Thank you for your pledge of 1 million dollars to our country. We know that our children, families and [those] seriously hurt by Hurricane Katrina are grateful. Thank you from the bottom of my heart," writes a US schoolgirl to the Bangladesh embassy in Washington.

Aldana M Fernandez, a fifth grader of Saint Jerome School in SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Low causes flash floods, waterlogging

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different parts of the country have started to face flash floods and severe waterlogging problems due to the continuous downpour since Friday.

The ongoing spell of heavy rain may continue till tomorrow under the influence of a well-marked low over the Bay, met office forecasts

JS body to probe TIB report basis after Huda heat

Communications Minister Nazmul Huda yesterday blasted the Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) for labelling the communications sector as the most corrupt and sought intervention of a parliamentary body in taking legal action against the organisation for smearing the government.

Endorsing the minister's demand, the parliamentary standing committee on the communications ministry at a meeting held at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban yesterday formed a subcommittee to probe the basis of the TIB report, which described the communi-

cations sector as the most corrupt of all. The committee members, all belonging to the ruling BNP, came down heavily on the media as well for

on which the TIB report was based. At one stage of the discussion, committee Chairman Syed Manjur Hossain proposed enacting laws to contain yellow journalism', said sources.

The parliamentary body itself had raised allegations of irregularities in the import of CNG-run auto-rickshaws against the communications minister and the state minister. It formed two committees to probe the allegations but none has done the job yet though around 19 months have gone since they were formed.

The sub-committee formed vesterday to look into the basis of the TIB report has been tasked to report back within a month.

"We will examine the basis of the report. We will not proceed on with the issue if we find the report objective. But

Manjur, also the convenor of the subcommittee, told The Daily Star yesterday after the meeting.

He said the communications minister raised the issue at the meeting and demanded legal action against the TIB. "Following the minister's demand, I proposed forming a subcommittee to probe the affair," he

The Bangladesh chapter of TI in a corruption database released on September 15 revealed that the country has incurred a loss of about Tk 415 crore last year alone due to corruption.

The communications sector came out as the most corrupt sector in the TIB report, which was based on the corruption reports published in 25 national and regional dailies last year.



Snake charmer Marjina and her three-year-old child Shanta, holding a snake together, pose for a photograph at Maghbazar in the capital.

KL yet to welcome Dhaka workers

RAFIQ HASAN

Despite signing a formal memorandum of understanding (MoU) between Dhaka and Kuala Lumpur in October 2003 and the latter's commitment to start fresh manpower recruitment from Bangladesh, Malaysian labour market is yet to be opened for workers from Bangladesh.

"It is very unlikely that the Malaysian labour market will open for Bangladeshi workers by this year", said a high official of the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment vesterday.

Malaysia's fresh recruitment SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Motijheel OC suspended

HC orders police not to arrest him

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police headquarters yesterday suspended Rafigul Islam, closed officer-incharge (OC) of Motifheel Police Station and main accused in the college student

Kamrul Islam Momin killing case. Earlier in the day, the High Court ordered him to surrender in four weeks to the Court of Metropolitan Sessions Judge

The HC also directed police not to arrest him when he surrendered to it after a 19-day hiding

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) ordered Rafigul to report to the Rajarbagh Police Lines after closing him on September 15. But he SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Wage Board recommends 40pc DA

ommended 40 percent dearness allowance (DA) for the journalists, employees and press workers of newspapers and news agencies. Chairman of the board Justice

The Sixth Wage Board vesterday rec-

Mohammad Fazlul Haque announced the recommendation following a three-hour long meeting of the board members, representing the owners, journalists and employees. He also suggested awarding of the DA to take effect from July 1, 2005

The amount of the allowance, however, will not exceed Tk 5,500 in any case, according to the SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Prayer Timing		
October 3		
	Azan	Jamaat
ajr	4-45	5-20
ohr	12-45	1-15
sr	4-15	4-30
aghrib	5-53	5-56
sha	7-30	8-00
Source: Islamic Foundation		

ACC completes screening of ex-Bac staff

Asks govt to withdraw discarded staff

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission(ACC) yesterday completed the screening of all the employees of the now-defunct Bureau of Anti-Corruption (Bac), making a list of staff $whom \, the \, commission \, will \, discard.$

Sending the list to the Cabinet Division yesterday, the ACC asked the government to withdraw these staff.

The ACC arbitrarily attached all the 1.107 staff of the Bac when it was dissolved in November last year with

In early September, the ACC finalised the screening of Bac officials and employees and decided to retain around 50 percent of them. Yesterday's list includes all the

14 deputy directors of the nowdefunct Bac, 35 out of the total 69 anti-corruption officers, 63 of 119 inspectors, 63 of 130 assistant inspectors and 49 percent of the third and fourth class employees.

When the ACC last year incorporated all the Bac staff, the government announced that they are government's reserved staff who will not work for the ACC until completion of

 $This\,conflict\,between\,the\,ACC\,and$ the government stalled the commission's recruitment process.

As the screening is complete, the ex-Bac staff to be discarded by the ACC have expressed discontent and grievances. They held a protest meeting yesterday at the Segunbagicha ACC office and rejected the screening.

The aggrieved staff believe that many of those who will be recruited were accused of corruption and irregularities. As per the ACC criteria, many of them do not qualify to be recruited, they claimed.

Some of these ex-Bac staff are sending unanimous letters to the ACC management bringing allegations against many of the staffs who have been selected for recruitment, sources said.

BARAPUKURIA COAL MINE

Petrobangla agrees to Tata's proposal for open-pit mining

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Petrobangla has decided in principle to agree with Tata's proposal to introduce open-pit method at Barapukuria coal mine in Dinajpur for using its coal as fuel for the Tata-proposed industries in

Sources said the issue was discussed at a technical meeting between the Tata officials and the Petrobangla officials and government consultants on coal at the Petrobangla office yesterday.

The Tata officials met the Petrobangla officials as part of their third round negotiation with the government to finalise the Indian SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

WOMEN'S SEATS

9 candidates in IS elected unopposed

BDNEWS, Dhaka

The Election Commission (EC) on Sunday declared all the nine female candidates, vying for the reserved seats for women in the Jatiya Sangsad (JS), elected unopposed. The Returning Officer (RO) of the

election, Mohammad Zokaria, had earlier published the final list of the newly elected female lawmakers through a gazette notification on

The EC on September 29 declared the nine nomination papers to be valid after scrutinising them

Six out of the nine female lawmakers are from the ruling BNP while Jamaat-e-Islami, Islami Oikya

HC stays changes to land transfer, registration acts

BDNEWS, Dhaka

The High Court (HC) on Sunday stayed the operation of the amendments to the land registration and land transfer acts till October 17.

A vacation bench of the HC com prising Justice Syed Muhammad Dastgir Husain and Justice Nirmalendu Dhar also issued a rule upon the government to show cause as to why the amendments to the two laws should not be declared unconstitutional and unlawful.

The order came upon a public interest writ petition, filed by Supreme Court lawyer Chowdhury Ataur Rahman, challenging the validity of the two amended land laws.

petitioner said the provisions of SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

While the nation observes the World Habitat Day today, having even a modest home remains a dream for many. The photo shows a homeless child asleep on the bridge leading to the Sadarghat launch terminal jetty.

Moon moves to make dazzlingring

BBC ONLINE

A dark shadow is about to be thrown over much of Europe, Africa, Asia and the Middle East in an annular eclipse. Monday will see the Moon sweep

across the face of the Sun for a dazzling display of celestial mechanics. An annular eclipse is less spectacular than a total solar eclipse because the sky never goes completely black;

In the right places, skywatchers should see a blazing ring of fire surround the Moon's disc.

but it should, nonetheless, be quite a

Bali bombers belong to Qaeda-linked group

Indonesia said vesterday it suspected two fugitives linked to al-Oaeda had masterminded the suicide bombings of crowded restaurants in tourist resorts on the Indonesian island of Bali, which killed at least 26 people and injured more than 100.

Maj. Gen. Ansyaad Mbai, a top Indonesian anti-terror official, identified the two suspected masterminds as Malaysians alleged to be key members of the al-Qaeda-linked Jemaah Islamiyah terror group. They are also

Meanwhile, over one hundred

As the hearing began, the lawyers on

Several lawyers led by Saiful Alam

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

people demonstrated on the court

premises to protest the final report that

recommended release of the three

both sides locked in scuffles inside the

court over the issue of defence lawyers

Shelly and Israfil Hossain

nightclub bombings, as well as two other attacks in the Indonesian capital in 2003 and 2004. The nightclub bombings, which also struck venues crowded with tourists on a Saturday night, killed 202 people, most of them foreigners.

In the latest attacks, three suicide bombers wearing explosive vests set off near-simultaneous explosions that devastated three restaurants crowded with diners on Saturday night.

"The modus operandi of Saturday's attacks is the same as the earlier ones,

said Mbai, who identified the two suspected masterminds as Azahari bin Husin and Noordin Mohamed Top.

He said the two were not believed to be among the three suicide attackers. The assailants' remains were found at the bombing scenes but they have not yet been identified, he said.

"I have seen them. All that is left is their head and feet," he told The Associated Press. "By the evidence we can conclude the bombers were carrying the explosives around their

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

MILI MURDER CASE

amid chaos

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The hearing on the naraji (noconfidence) petition against the final report in schoolgirl Mafruza Begum Mili's rape and murder case could not be held yesterday amid chaos in the

The Special Court on Women and Children Repression Prevention fixed October 10 for fresh hearing and asked the lawyers to choose three counsels on each side for moving the case

Indian FM in Pakistan

Hearing cancelled No breakthrough expected in talks tests and on a hotline between their

India's foreign minister was due in Pakistan yesterday for talks on the nuclear-armed neighbours' tentative peace process with two agreements expected on security cooperation but no major breakthroughs seen as likely. Natwar Singh will meet his Pakistani

counterpart, Khursheed Mehmood

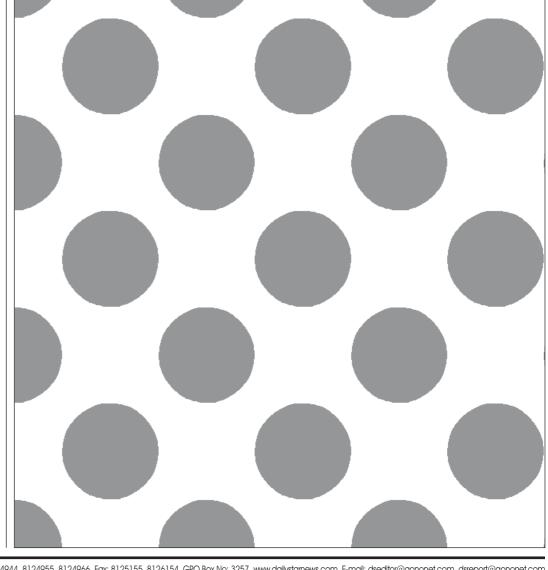
Kasuri, on Monday with pacts expected

on advance warning of ballistic missile

coast guards, Pakistan's Dawn newspaper said. "We shouldn't expect major break

throughs but definitely we'll see some progress," said Jamshed Ayaz, president of the Institute of Regional Studies, an Islamabad-based think-tank. It will be Singh's second visit to

Pakistan since the neighbours launched their peace process early SEE PAGE 15 COL 6



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